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Response (15 pgs.)

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MAR 27 2006**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/686,959 Confirmation No.: 8800
Applicant : Conner, W. Steven
Filed : 10/15/2003
TC/A.U. : 2635
Examiner : Yang, Clara I

Docket No. : 1020.P16717 (42P16717)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE**SIR:**

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 27, 2005, with the three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 27, 2006, please reconsider the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and/or remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.